

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, FE

30 August 1955

SUBJECT : Restrictions on Photography in Communist China

1. A check of the files of this office reveals no data concerning overall restrictions on taking photographs in Communist China. Information from various sources reflects that the restrictions depend upon the locations and the individuals desiring to take photographs. In certain restricted areas such as Hungjao section of Shanghai and certain areas in Peiping, photographs are absolutely forbidden. In other areas there are either signs posted or guards standing by to forbid the taking of pictures. On the other hand, even some of these restrictions are relaxed for important guests of the ChiCom regime. Finally in baggage checks at ports of exit from China, generally all photographs are examined and photographs of bridges, railway installations, etc. and pictures such as those of rickshaw coolies which the ChiComs interpret as being degrading to the Chinese people are not permitted to leave the country.

2. Presumably an individual arrested for taking photographs in a restricted area would be tried under the espionage laws, however, there are no specific cases in point available.

WILLIAM V. BROE

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